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2006 Recreation Fees and Schedule

PITTSBURGH – This news release summarizes rates and dates of availability for family and group camping areas and facilities at day use areas at lakes managed by the Pittsburgh District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the 2006 recreation season.

Reservations for campsites at four Pittsburgh District lakes – [Berlin Lake](#), [Shenango River Lake](#), [Tionesta Lake](#) and [Youghiogheny River Lake](#) – can be made through the National Recreation Reservation Service (NRRS), an interagency one-stop service center for recreation reservations. Reservations can be made up to 240 days before arrival by calling the NRRS toll-free at 1-877-444-6777 or on their web site www.ReserveUSA.com. Campsites at Pittsburgh District lakes not in the NRRS program, and a certain percentage of campsites at NRRS campgrounds, are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

All user fees are based on the facilities provided, the extent of regular maintenance required and the direct or indirect amount of federal expenditures. Fees charged by other public agencies for the use of similar facilities and fees charged at comparable private campgrounds are factors in determining the appropriate fees to be charged.

Those who would like to experience camping, but are reluctant to make a significant investment in equipment beforehand, may want to spend one or several days/nights at a Rent-A-Tent campsite. Rent-A-Tent sites are available at Shenango River Lake at a rate of \$30 per night. The Rent-A-Tent campsite includes use of a 9-foot by 12-foot cabin tent (sleeps 5-6), a 10-foot by 12-foot dining fly, a 36-quart cooler, sleeping pads, electric camp stove, camp light, picnic table, fire ring and fire extinguisher. While reservations are accepted at these sites, some restrictions apply. Interested campers can contact Shenango Lake at 724-962-7746 for details.

Golden Age and Golden Access Passports, which allow holders to receive a 50 percent reduction on camping fees at Corps-operated campgrounds, are available at the Corps' lakes where fees are charged. Golden Age Passports are available for a one-time fee of \$10 to individuals who are age 62 or older. The passports must be applied for in person and proof of age must be presented. The Corps issues Golden Access Passports for blind and disabled individuals who meet the established qualifications. To qualify for a Golden Access Passport, the individual must show proof of medically determined blindness or permanent disability and their eligibility for receiving benefits under federal law. Golden Access Passports are issued free of charge.

The fee for reserving a picnic shelter at a Corps-managed recreation area varies between \$35 and \$60 per day, depending on the location, day of the week and availability of electricity. Crooked Creek Lake also offers \$30 to \$35 half-day reservations on weekends and holidays due to the popularity of the shelters at that lake. Shelter reservations are generally available by contacting the Park Office, but at Berlin Lake reservations for the Mill Creek Day Use Area Pavilion are made

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exclusively through the NRRS. Picnic shelters at Pittsburgh District lakes are open to the public at no charge other than when they are reserved.

The following is a list of campground opening and closing dates and fees for the 2006 camping season:

Project	Campground	Date Opening	Date Closing	Class	Without Electric	With Electric	Rent-A-Tent
Berlin Lake	Mill Creek Campground ¹ (in Mill Creek Recreation Area)	May 24	Sept 17	A	\$14-\$18	\$20-\$24	
Crooked Creek Lake	Crooked Creek Campground	May 13	Sept 10	B	\$10		
	Crooked Creek Group Area	May 1	Sept 30	C	\$45/weekend & \$35 Mon-Thurs		
East Branch Lake	East Branch Campground	April 14	Oct 16	B	\$15	\$20	
Loyalhanna Lake	Bush Area	May 19	Oct 15	B	\$14	\$20	
	Bush Primitive Group Area	May 19	Oct 15	B	\$16		
Shenango Lake	Shenango Recreation Area ¹	May 12	Sept 17	A	\$15-\$17 Multi-unit site: \$27	\$20	\$30
Tionesta Lake	Outflow Campground ²	May 1	Sept 24	B	\$7-\$10 Off-season: No charge		
	Tionesta Recreation Area ¹	May 22	Sept 24	A		Full Hookup: \$25 Group site (Electric Only): \$25	
	Kellettville Campground ²	April 14	Sept 24	B	\$10 Off-season: No charge		
Youghiogheny Lake	Outflow Area ²	April 13 Sep 11	May 18 Oct 9		Spring/Fall Self Registration: \$12 Bike/Hike site: \$4 per person Off-season: No charge	Spring/Fall Self Registration: \$15 Full Hookup: \$26 Group sites: 1A: \$35 2A: \$15-\$35 Off-season: No charge	
	Outflow Area ^{1,2}	May 19	Sept 10	A	\$16 Bike/Hike site: \$6 per person	\$20 Full Hookup: \$35 Group sites: 1A: \$35-\$110 2A: \$30-\$70	
	Tub Run ¹	May 19	Sept 4	A	\$16-\$17	\$20	
	Mill Run Campground ²	May 1	Sept 11	B	Self Registration: \$12 Off-season: No charge		

¹ NRRS

² Dates shown are fee collection periods. Open beyond fee season with reduced facilities during the off-season. The Youghiogheny and Tionesta Outflow campgrounds are open all year. The off season at Tionesta's Kellettville Campground is September 25 to mid-December.

An additional fee of \$3 per person will be charged to visitors of campers at the Mill Creek Recreation Area campground at Berlin Lake and the Shenango Recreation Area campground at Shenango Lake. Section 16 U.S.C. 4601, *Outdoor Recreation Programs*, authorizes the charging of a user fee to visitors who are using the specialized facilities within the camping area. Fees for extra vehicles are charged at some campgrounds and fees may also be charged for the use of the dump stations where applicable.

A change in the number of camping units allowed at the Tub Run Campground at Youghiogheny River Lake went into effect in the 2005 recreation season and will continue in 2006. Two tents, or one tent plus one trailer, are permitted per campsite. Occupation by more than two camping units per site is prohibited. This policy had previously been adopted at Youghiogheny's Outflow Campground and will remain in effect at that area.

In addition to the above campground openings, the Corps will be collecting Recreation Day User Fees at the following recreation areas in 2006:

Project	Area	Facilities	Dates
Berlin Lake	Mill Creek Recreation Area	Boat Launch	May 24 - Sept 17
Crooked Creek Lake	Beach	Swim Beach	May 20 - Sept 10
East Branch Lake	East Branch Launch	Boat Launch	April 14 - Oct 16
Loyalhanna Lake	Bush Recreation Area	Boat Launch	April 14 - Oct 23
Shenango River Lake	Mahaney Recreation Area	Boat Launch	May 12 - Sept 17
	Shenango Recreation Area		
	Clark Area Recreation Area		
Tionesta Lake	Tionesta Launch Area	Boat Launch	April 15 - Sept 24
Youghiogheny River Lake	Somerfield North	Boat Launch	May 1 - Sept 30
	Mill Run Recreation Area	Boat Launch	May 1 - Sept 30
		Swim Beach	May 26 - Sept 30
	Spillway Recreation Area	Boat Launch	May 1 - Sept 30
		Swim Beach	May 26 - Sept 30

A fee of \$1 per person, up to \$4 per vehicle, will be charged at developed Corps-operated swimming beaches. There will be no fee for children 12 years of age and under. A fee of \$3 per vehicle will be charged at boat launch ramps having one or more of the following: restrooms, security lighting, picnicking facilities or other developed recreation facilities. Fees will be collected by using a combination of honor boxes and gate collectors. Campground users will not pay day use fees in addition to camping fees. The dates listed above summarize when fees will be collected but individual recreation areas may be available for use before and after those dates at no charge to the public.

A Corps of Engineers Annual Day Use Pass may be purchased for \$30. This pass permits the holder and accompanying passengers to use all boat launch ramps and swimming beaches at Corps-operated areas without further charges. The pass is a plastic tag which hangs from the rear view mirror; attached to the tag are stickers representing the month and year in which the pass was purchased. Passes are good for 12 months from the date of purchase. New stickers may be attached to the same tag in subsequent years. The month and year stickers are to be directly affixed to the vehicle for open vehicles and those lacking a rear view mirror. Golden Age and Golden Access Passports will also be honored at day use areas, allowing the passport holder to purchase one annual pass for half price or use the day use facilities, together with guests, for half the fee.

Deficit reduction legislation, the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993 (Public Law 103-66), gives the Corps authorization to collect day use fees. The funds will be used to help pay operations and maintenance costs in the Corps' recreation program.